(b) whether the unique concept was provided with necessary funds in order to make the yatra a grand success;

(c) which are the places/States where health camps were conducted during the yatra; and

(d) whether Government are considering to make it a regular feature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

MoU with IAVI for AIDS control

2047. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into a MoU with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) for accelerating the efforts to develop a vaccine to counter HIV, according to a news report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are:

(1) *Phase-I clinical trial at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune*

NARI, Pune has initiated Phase I clinical trial on 7th Feb. 2005, of a vaccine candidate named tgAAC09 (recombinant Adeno-Associated viral vector, rAAV). It has been produced by Targeted Genetics Corp. (NASDAQ:TGEN), a settle-based biotechnology company, and Columbus Children's Research Institute (CCRI) in Ohio in partnership with IAVI. The vaccine candidate tgAAC09 is modelled after subtype C of HIV, the dominant subtype of HIV prevalent in India. The recruitment and vaccination of the planned number of volunteers has been completed. The result from this Phase I trial will be analysed jointly at the end of the trial in early 2007.

(2) *Phase-I clinical trial at Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai*

ICMR's Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai launched the second phase I clinical trial on AIDS in Feb. 2006. The investigational

vaccine TBC-M4, consists of a recombinant Modified Vaccine Ankara (MVA) targetting HIV-1 subtype C, the most predominant HIV subtype in India.

An Indian Scientist based at ICMR's National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases has collaborated with the international AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and biotechnology firm Therion Biologics Corporation (Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA) in the development of the AIDS vaccine candidate utilising MVA vector technology.

New AIDS treatment by German scientists

2048. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that German scientists have developed a new treatment for HIV, which is useful in targeted, mutated strains of AIDS virus that they become impervious to drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they succeeded in blocking the multiplication of HIV-I;

(c) if so, the details of the research; and

(d) what is the difference between the conventional therapies and the latest discovery which neutralized the human protein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that a team of German scientists from the Heinrich Pette Institute in Hamburg and Nuremberg-Eriangen University, led by Ilona Hauber, announced in January 2005 that they had developed a new treatment of HIV that is useful in targeted mutated strains of the AIDS virus that have become impervious to drugs. The scientific article explaining their research appeared in the "Journal of Clinical Investigations" published from the US, in January, 2005.

(b) It is claimed that they have succeeded in blocking the multiplication of HIV-1, including those strains of the virus that have developed resistance against all currently available anti-retroviral drugs.